

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom was created by the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to monitor the status of freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief abroad, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and related international instruments, and to give independent policy recommendations to the President, Secretary of State, and Congress. The Commission is an equal opportunity employer.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) is now accepting applications for its 2011-2012 Joseph R. Crapa Fellowship Program. The application deadline is April 18, 2011.

The funded fellowships are available to select individuals with exceptional records of accomplishment and/or outstanding records of academic achievement in fields relevant to the work of USCIRF, including but not limited to, religious freedom and related human rights, foreign policy, international law, and security. USCIRF welcomes applicants from the U.S. congressional community, government agencies (including the State Department, U.S. Agency for International Development, and military and intelligence agencies), academia, nongovernmental organizations, think tanks, and other relevant fields. Current and previous Crapa fellows include:

- [Mr. Ali Al-Ahmed \(2010-2011 Crapa Fellow\)](#)
- [Ms. Geraldine Fagan \(2010-2011 Crapa Fellow\)](#)
- [Mr. Ziya Meral \(2010-2011 Crapa Fellow\)](#)
- [Dr. Timothy Samuel Shah \(2009-2010 Fellow\)](#)
- [Dr. Maryann Cusimano Love \(2009-2010 Fellow\)](#)
- [Dr. Ahmed Subhy Mansour \(2009-2010 Fellow\)](#)
- [Ms. Liora Danan \(2009-2010 Fellow\)](#)

Citizens of any country may apply. Non-U.S. citizens without permanent resident status must obtain an H-1B nonimmigrant visa, which USCIRF will sponsor. The term of each fellowship will be determined by the nature of the fellow's project, but will not exceed 12 months. It is expected that fellows will spend a significant portion of their fellowship in residence at the USCIRF offices in Washington, DC. The preferable start date for the fellowship is September 2011 or soon thereafter.

Applicants for a Crapa Fellowship should submit a proposal detailing the parameters of the project they intend to pursue during their time as a Crapa Fellow. This proposal should include:

- detailed budget;
- a succinct statement of the area of intended study;
- the relevance of the study to the field of religious freedom;
- the format and timing of the product they propose to produce; and
- a brief overview of relevant existing work in the area of proposed study.

In addition, applicants should send a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and the names of three professional references USCIRF can contact directly. Applications should be submitted electronically to: crapafellows@uscirf.gov. Projects can be country focused or thematic and should seek to enhance and expand the policy work of USCIRF. Country proposals should focus on countries USCIRF recommends as “countries of particular concern,” or CPCs, and/or those countries on USCIRF’s Watch List. For thematic proposals, below is a list of sample topics of interest to USCIRF. This list is not exhaustive and is only meant to provide some examples of possible areas for fellowship research:

- The role of religion and religious freedom in counterinsurgencies and in combating religious extremism.
- The developing parameters of religious freedom under international law, including an analysis of significant trends and strategies to impact the development in positive directions.
- The impact of religious freedom in advancing the rights of women.
- Government-sponsored intolerant materials and its impact on religious freedom.
- Utilizing U.S. assistance effectively to promote and advance religious freedom.
- Identifying the state's obligations to overcome impunity for abuses of religious freedom and related rights.
- Confronting hate crimes related to religion while respecting freedom of expression and freedom of religion.

Before joining USCIRF, Joseph Crapa spent a year as chief of staff to Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.). Earlier, he held legislative and public affairs positions with the Agency for International Development and the Environmental Protection Agency. He was chief of staff for Rep. David R. Obey (D-Wis.) from 1987 to 1997, the last three years as Democratic counsel to the House Appropriations Committee. He served as USCIRF’s Executive Director from 2002 until his untimely death in 2007. A committed public servant, Mr. Crapa guided USCIRF with consummate skill, combining a keen sense of public service with an abiding

commitment to advancing the cause of religious freedom. He helped USCIRF amplify its voice and broaden its reach.

INTERNSHIPS

The Commission is now accepting internship applications for Summer 2011.

Communications Department Intern:

- Creates daily press clips for distribution to USCIRF Commissioners and staff, as well as to select individuals at the White House and State Department
- Maintains and expands database of media, non-governmental organization, think tank, academia, and religious contacts
- Helps prepare materials for distribution to the public and press. This includes press releases, policy briefs, newsletters, and reports
- Helps organize and provide logistical support for events such as press conferences, public hearings, and speaking engagements
- Provides general administrative support as needed

Eligible candidates should have:

- At least two years of undergraduate study completed
- Willingness to do administrative work
- Attention to detail and strong organizational skills
- Willingness to work independently and with minimal supervision
- Interest in human rights and foreign policy
- Excellent writing and editing skills

Government Relations Intern:

- Tracks foreign policy statements, human rights legislation, and relevant policy publications
- Attends and reports on Congressional hearings
- Reviews relevant government agency websites and publications daily
- Researches actions taken by and platforms of Members of Congress and Congressional committees and organizations

- Provides general administrative support as needed

Eligible candidates should:

- Be recent college graduates, college seniors or students enrolled in a graduate program, with an interest in government affairs, foreign policy or a related field.
- Possess excellent writing and comprehension skills
- Be familiar with Microsoft Office, including Excel

Policy Department: Legal Research Intern

- Conducts research on a variety of international human rights and comparative law topics, as assigned

Eligible candidates should be:

- At least second-year law students or recent law graduates with coursework or experience in constitutional law, international affairs, human rights, religious affairs, or a related field
- Familiar with legal research techniques and the Microsoft Office suite.
- Ability in Arabic is helpful, but not required
- Interested in the field of international human rights

Policy Department: Regional Policy Analysis Intern

- Researches a variety of international religious freedom and human rights issues, with a focus in one or more of the following world regions:
 - Africa
 - East Asia
 - Europe and Central Asia
 - Middle East
 - South Asia
- Assists in preparations for meetings, roundtables, Commission travel, and other events
- Possesses demonstrable knowledge of a particular world region
- Attends meetings at the Commission with international visitors and other groups interested in the Commission's work
 - Attends and reports on public hearings and other events around D.C. on issues

relevant to the Commission's work

- Assists with administrative duties, as needed

Eligible candidates should have:

- At least three years of undergraduate study completed with coursework or experience in public policy, international affairs, political sciences, human rights, religious affairs, government affairs, or a related field. Recent graduates and graduate students are encouraged to apply.
- Academic background in the desired world region(s) of study
- Willingness to do administrative work.
- Familiarity with the Microsoft Office suite. Knowledge of Microsoft Access is a plus.
- Fluency in a foreign language (particularly Mandarin Chinese, Russian, or Arabic) is preferred.

Most internships are part-time (20-30 hours) and all are unpaid. Course credit is available. The Commission does not provide housing or pay moving expenses, however, will do provide a transport stipend to cover the costs of transport to and from the Commission.

To apply for an internship, please e-mail, fax or mail a resume, 3-5 page writing sample, 2-3 references and a cover letter explaining your qualifications and why you would like to intern at the Commission.

Please specify for which internship you are applying in your cover letter and in the subject line of emailed applications.

Internship Program United States Commission on International Religious Freedom

800 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 790

Washington, DC 20002

(PH) 202-523-3240; (FAX) 202-523-5020 begin_of_the_skype_highlighting

202-523-5
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; (EMAIL) internship@uscirf.gov

The application deadlines for each semester are as follows:

Fall/Winter Semester: September - December

Application Deadline: **August 1st**

Spring Semester: January- May
Application Deadline: **December 1st**

Summer Semester: June - August
Application Deadline: **April 1st**